

## North-East *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record

Small Group Innovators (color)

Facilitator Richard Harris

Recorder-Reporter Susan May

### Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”

Priority response #1 (votes: 6 ) Stop the brain drain and brand our region.

Priority response #2 (votes: 4 ) Enhance and modernize the paper industry.

Priority response #3 (votes: 4 ) Coordination among state agencies. For example, DNR to foster business growth.

Priority response #4 (votes: 4 ) Develop legislative advocacy for this region.

Priority response #5 (votes: 4 ) Regional marketing to attract and retain complete manufacturing operations.

Priority response #6 (votes: 2 ) Significantly reduce state tax burden; increase tax credits.

Priority response #7 (votes: 2 ) Major regional airport for northeast Wisconsin.

Priority response #8 (votes: 2 ) Incentives to employers for employee training.

Priority response #9 (votes: 2 ) Change university mission to support regional needs and decentralize R & D.

Priority response #10 (votes: 2 ) Continue/improve efforts to attract venture capital to the state.

## **“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise**

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

**Priority Issue #1      Stop the brain drain and brand our region as a great place to live and work.**

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

\*Develop a marketing study and program to retain the best of graduates and workers.

\*Finance business to create the desirable jobs graduates are learning for.

**Priority Issue #2      Enhance and modernize the paper industry.**

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

\*Create an energy sales tax exemptions for high energy use companies versus the current tax credit model.

\*Promote the paper industry in the state like we do the high-tech and bio-tech industries.

**Priority Issue #3      Increase coordination among state agencies to foster business growth.**

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

\*Conduct a comprehensive independent review of all state regulatory agencies by 2004 (from a global market advantage) to reduce duplication and build efficiencies.